

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed November 14, 2005 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-5 and 8-22 remain pending, the independent claims remaining 1 and 8-10. Claims 1, 8 and 10 are not amended. Claim 9 has been amended for clarity. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 8, 10, 13-15, 17-19 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,886,732 to Humpleman in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,038,625 to Ogino and U.S. Patent No. 6,826,699 to Sun.

Claim 1 recites:

for decoding digital television signals for display at the television sets, a plurality of respective distributed signal decoding arrangements having respective cryptographic engines configured for executing conditional access, said system being configured for transferring, over a network linking the plural sets and from a source from among said arrangements to a destination from among said arrangements, a decryption key usable for conditional access by the respective cryptographic engine of the destination arrangement

As the Office Action acknowledges, Humpleman fails to disclose or suggest a "system being configured for transferring . . . from a source from among said arrangements to a destination from among said arrangements. . ."

It is further unclear, however, what the Office Action regards in Humpleman as corresponding to the "respective distributed signal decoding arrangements" of the present claim 1.

Humpleman executes conditional access (col. 7, lines 49-50: "access control") not "at the television sets," but within the network interface module 50 (col. 7,

line 51: "network interface module 50"). Humpleman signal decoding (col. 8, line 17: "video decoder;" line 19: "MPEG decoder 70") occurs at the set-top electronics (FIG. 4, ref. no. 40) which are separated across a network 34 from the network interface module 50 that performs conditional access (abstract, last sentence: "separate;" col. 2, line 7: "separate;" line 8: "separation;" col. 4, line 61: "separates;" line 66, "separation.") The separation advantageously "reduces the need for duplication of the network interface functions at each television set . . . and thereby reduces the costs for the typical homeowner who will have more than one television set in the home" (see col. 2, lines 8-17; see also col. 5, lines 1-4: "This arrangement permits multiple set-top electronics to be distributed throughout the home 36 less expensively, since the electronics of a network interface unit do not have to be duplicated for each set-top electronics").

It is accordingly unclear in what sense the Office Action sees Humpleman as disclosing the above-quoted second element of claim 1, even taking into account the acknowledgment by the Office Action.

As to Ogino, the Office Action cites, unconvincingly, to a passage in Ogino about one device, in the abstract, receiving data from another device. Thus, for example, a VCR retrieves the channel number which the viewer is watching, and records that channel number when the user selects the "quick record" button. There is no disclosure or suggestion in the applied references, alone or in combination, of sharing authorization data such as encryption keys. Thus, although the Office Action cites to Ogino to show the "transferring" of claim 1, the instant applicant submits that the Office Action falls short of making the showing based on Ogino.

Moreover, Ogino does not cure the lack of disclosure or suggestion in Humpleman of the "arrangement" of claim 1.

In addition, Ogino is directed to a HAVi system which uses IEEE 1394 (col. 7, line 4); whereas, Humpleman operates on an Ethernet protocol which, especially at the time the invention was made, was incompatible with the IEEE 1394 protocol of Ogino.

The Sun reference is directed to authenticating a potential receiving device to ensure it participates in the protocol. This authenticating involves a decryption key, but it is unclear what nexus the Office Action is suggesting between the Sun decryption key and the "decryption key usable for conditional access" appearing in the present claim 1.

The Office Action, in reply, cites, unconvincingly, to two sentences in Sun. The first sentence, in column 6, indicates that Sun relates to content protection in connection with transmission. The second sentence, in column 1, merely says that, since copies can be made of digital content limitlessly without degradation of the product, the owner of that content must proceed in non-traditional ways to assure that copies are not made available to unauthorized parties, i.e., by encrypting the content. It is, however, unclear what nexus the Office Action is suggesting between the Sun decryption key and the "decryption key usable for conditional access" appearing in the present claim 1.

Additionally, the instant applicant does not see any way that Sun could compensate for all, or even any, of the above-mentioned shortcomings of the other references.

For at least all of the above reasons, the applied references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the second element of claim 1.

Claim 8 recites:

A local digital television apparatus including a digital signal decoding arrangement for receiving coded digital television signals and including a conditional access module configured for the input and output of decryption keys serving to control the decoding of the digital television signal either locally within the apparatus by means of said input or remotely at further digital television apparatus by means of said output

Claim 8 is deemed patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1.

Claim 5 is deemed to distinguish patentably over the cited references at least due to its dependency from base claim 1 which has been shown to be patentable.

In addition, claim 5 recites, ". . . each television set includes an arrangement of said distributed signal decoding arrangements."

Since the latter are "arrangements having respective cryptographic engines," it is unclear how the language of claim 5 could properly be considered to be met by the combination of references the Office Action is applying.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Humpleman in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,237,610 to Gammie et al. ("Gammie").

Claim 9, as amended, recites, "A digital television unit, including . . . said means being further configured for outputting decoding authorization data so as to remotely control decoding of a coded digital television signal received at another digital television unit. . ."

Claim 9 is amended for clarity. Support for the amendment is found in FIG. 4 and accompanying text in the specification.

As discussed above, Humpleman fails to disclose the above-quoted aspect of the present claim 9. Firstly, the Humpleman television unit does not process decoding authorization data. Secondly, Humpleman does not disclose or suggest a television unit remotely controlling decoding an "another unit." Gammie cannot make up for the deficiencies in Humpleman.

Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Humpleman in view of Ogino, Sun and Ozawa.

Claims 11 and 12 depend from base claim 1. The Ozawa reference cannot compensate for the shortcomings of the other references.

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Humpleman in view of Ogino, Sun and Gammie.

Claim 16 depends from claim 8, Gammie cannot make up for the deficiencies in the other references.

Claims 10 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Humpleman in view of Ogino.

Claim 10 recites, ". . . transferring a decryption key from a conditional access module of a digital decoding arrangement associated with one television set for operation in association with a conditional access module of a digital decoding arrangement associated with another television set."

Humpleman fails to disclose or suggest the "transferring" for at least the same reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1. Also, for at least the same reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1, Ogino cannot make up the difference.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

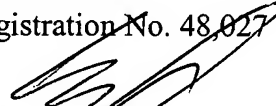
Claims 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Humpleman in view of Ogino and Ozawa.

Claims 20 and 21 depend from claim 10. Ozawa cannot compensate for the deficiencies in the other applied references.

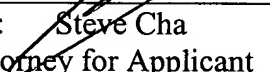
For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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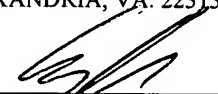
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